(c) the equity base of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) 18 nationalised banks have finalised their accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1991 and only one bank i.e. UCO Bank has shown a loss of Rs. 42.96 crores. Two banks are yet to finalise their accounts.

(b) According to the forms of Balance Sheet and Profits & Loss Account prescribed in the Third Schedule of Banking Regulation Act, 1949, which all the banks are required to follow, and in accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers, the banks are given statutory protection from disclosing the provisions made for bad and doubtful debts as well as loan losses.

(c) The equity base viz. paid up capital of UCO Bank as on 31-3-91 was Rs. 500 crores.

Cases Involving FERA Violation

4117. PROF. ASHOK ANAND-RAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases involving the violation of FERA provisions brought to the notice of the Government during the last four months; and

(b) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI REMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) During the last four months 1-4-91 to 31-7-91—983 cases were registered.

(b) During this period, 1040 cases were adjudicated, penalty of Rs. 425.79 lakhs was imposed, and Indian currency (Rs. 41.42 lakhs) and foreign currency (Rs. 44.60 lakhs) were ordered to be confiscated.

Raids on Copper Electrolyte Ingots Traders

4118. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Raids point to copper scam' appearing in the Economic Times of July 7, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the foreign exchange irregularities detected during the raids on various traders of copper electrolyte ingots;

(c) whether the investigations have been completed in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI REMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (e) The Government is aware of the newsitem. During June and July, 1991, the officers of the Collector of Customs (Preventive), Bombay, and the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau, searched various premises of the importers of copper electrolyte ingots, wire bars, brass scraps and other non-ferrous metals located at Bombay and Delhi. Further investigations/adjudication as a sequel to these searches are in progress.